



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Harvest of Gray Triggerfish in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on December 16, 2016

Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) December 16, 2016**. Landings data and projections indicate that commercial harvest of gray triggerfish is projected to reach the 2016 July through December quota. As a result, commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in South Atlantic waters will be closed for the remainder of the fishing year. The 2017 January through June fishing season reopens at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2017.

The operator of a vessel with a valid federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper who is landing gray triggerfish for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such gray triggerfish prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, **December 16, 2016**. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of gray triggerfish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) **December 16, 2016**, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the commercial closure:

- Harvest or possession of gray triggerfish in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits when the recreational sector is open.
- The bag and possession limits for gray triggerfish and the prohibition on sale/purchase apply in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or federal waters.

This closure is necessary to protect the gray triggerfish resource by preventing the commercial quota from being exceeded.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast is pleased to announce the introduction of our **Text Message Alert Program**. The program will allow you to sign up to receive important fishery related alerts via text message. Text alerts you may receive include immediate fishery openings and closures, and any significant changes to fishing regulations that happen quickly.

How to opt-in

Sign up for related alerts for one or more of the following groups. Standard message & data rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time.

- **Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries:** Text GULFRECFISH to 888777
- **Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries:** Text GULFCOMMFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Recreational Fisheries:** Text SATLRECFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Commercial Fisheries:** Text SATLCOMMFISH to 888777
- **Caribbean Fisheries:** Text CARIBFISH to 888777